

RECOGNITION OF ELIZABETH D. FREEMAN

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2001

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my constituent and friend, Elizabeth D. Freeman of Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Elizabeth is the ultimate community volunteer. She has devoted countless hours organizing the private fundraising efforts of the Broward County Library System. As an active member of the Board of Directors of the Broward Public Library Foundation, she has organized their most successful annual event, "The Night of Literary Feasts". This event brings renowned authors to Fort Lauderdale for a series of small dinners in private homes and a day of lectures open to the public. You can't say no to Elizabeth, as David Gerkin found out last year.

That unique talent, the power to persuade has made Elizabeth a most sought after member of organizations and committees in our community. Most recently, she has chaired the Opera Ball, served on the Board of Directors of the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society, Miami Heart, the Fort Lauderdale Philharmonic Society and SPARK, the fundraising arm of the Museum of Discovery and Science. She also found time to be an active member of Beaux Arts, organizing events to support the Fort Lauderdale Museum of Art.

Elizabeth Freeman is an individual who wants to see things accomplished. She usually is the behind-the-scenes worker bee, working for what she believes in, not seeking recognition of her accomplishments. But I think it is time to recognize Elizabeth's forty plus years of community service. Today, we recognize Elizabeth Freeman for all of her good work and as a representative of a very important segment of our society, the volunteers who give untold hours of their time and energy to improve the quality of life of all of us.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN HAS VERY SUCCESSFUL CONVENTION

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2001

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, last weekend, October 6 and 7, the Council of Khalistan held its annual convention down in Atlanta. It was very successful. The organization laid out strategies for liberating the Sikh homeland, Khalistan, discussed the political situation there, worked on the concerns of Sikhs here in America, and passed several resolutions. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Council of Khalistan on a successful convention.

Mr. Speaker, freeing Khalistan is an important effort to secure freedom for the Sikh people. America was founded on the principles of freedom and self-determination and these things are the birthright of all people. Yet the response of "democratic" India is to use force to suppress the natural yearning for freedom.

India is a land of massive human-rights violations. Secretary Powell is there now and we hope that he can maintain good relations with India and that no violence breaks out. But I also hope he will press the Indian government on its abysmal human-rights record and its record, until very recently, of anti-Americanism. It is holding over 52,000 Sikhs as political prisoners without charge or trial, according to a recent report by the Movement Against State Repression. Dr. Aulakh, the President of the Council of Khalistan, recently wrote to Secretary Powell urging him to seek the release of these political prisoners during his visit to India.

We should insist on full and active support for our anti-terrorist efforts. We should also insist that India begin to respect basic human rights. If they do not, we should maintain our sanctions on India and cut off its aid. And we should go on record for an end to the terrorism in South Asia by publicly supporting a free and fair plebiscite with international monitoring on the issue of freedom in Punjab, Khalistan, in Kashmir, in Christian Nagaland, and all the nations that seek their freedom. Only then can real security, freedom, and peace reign in South Asia.

Mr. Speaker, the Council of Khalistan has published a press release on its convention. I would like to place it in the RECORD.

DELEGATES DISCUSS STRATEGIES TO LIBERATE KHALISTAN, PASS RESOLUTIONS FOR KHALISTAN, OTHER SIKH CAUSES

Washington, DC, Oct. 9, 2001.—The Council of Khalistan's annual international convention was held this past weekend in Atlanta, Georgia. It was very successful. A large number of delegates came from around the United States and Canada. The convention honored Khalistan Day, the anniversary of the declaration of independence by the Sikh homeland, Khalistan, which took place on October 7, 1987. The Council of Khalistan was constituted at that time to serve as the government pro tempore of Khalistan and lead its struggle for independence.

The convention mapped out strategy to bring about the liberation of Khalistan. There was much very inspired, energetic, and intelligent discussion of how to move the freedom struggle forward.

Delegates also passed several resolutions, including resolutions demanding a free and fair plebiscite on independence in Khalistan and the other nations India occupies; demanding the release of Sikh and other political prisoners; to form a Khalsa Raj Party to liberate Khalistan; to let human-rights organizations into Punjab; condemning the attacks on Sikhs and other minorities since the September 11 terrorists acts at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon; condemning the attack on the United States; to raise money for the Washington office; to nominate Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, for the Nobel Prize; naming Dr. Aulakh Khalistan Man of the Year; condemning Simranjit Singh Mann and Tarlochan Singh for their betrayal of the Sikh Nation and unwarranted attack on Dr. Aulakh; calling on Sikhs, Sikh leaders, and Gurdwaras to support the freedom struggle; and commending convention chairman Dr. Gulbarg Singh Basi and his wife, Rup Kaur Basi, for their hard work to make the convention successful. They decided that next year's convention will be held on Columbus Day weekend 2002 in Philadelphia.

Dr. Aulakh thanked all the delegates who came to the convention. "I am very im-

pressed with the turnout," he said. "We have many people who took time out of their busy schedules to come here. They gave this weekend to the cause of Sikh freedom," he said. "Their efforts are noticed and appreciated."

"These are true Sikhs," Dr. Aulakh added. "The Sikh leadership in Punjab would do well to emulate the people at this convention. Remember 'In grieb Sikhin ko deon Patshahi' and 'Raj Kare Ga Khalsa,'" Dr. Aulakh said. "As Professor Darshan Singh said, 'If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh.' We must keep this in mind when we deal with corrupt leaders such as Badal, Tohra, Chohan, and others."

"This convention has been a significant step forward in the effort to reclaim the Sikh Nation's lost sovereignty," said Dr. Aulakh. "Only then will Sikhs live in freedom, dignity, peace, and prosperity," he said. "Everyone who came to this convention should be saluted for making the effort," he said. "I would like to thank the Atlanta Gurdwara for their input and their hospitality. Special thanks go to Dr. and Mrs. Basi for organizing the convention."

TRIBUTE TO DEBBI HUFFMAN GUTHRIE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2001

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with the Mt. Rubidoux District California Inland Empire Council of the Boy Scouts of America in saluting Debbi Huffman Guthrie as their Distinguished Citizen of the Year—2001.

Debbi, a lifelong resident of Riverside, California, is a third generation owner of a roofing company established by her grandfather in 1921. As a native Riversider, Debbi attended Ramona High School and California State University, San Bernardino. Debbi Guthrie and her husband have four daughters and four grandchildren.

Debbi Guthrie has been and continues to be a shining example of a person with passion and principles who has strived to have a positive effect upon her local community. Her approach and policy has been a simple one, that a community's strength comes from just that—the community. We must first start close to home and then radiate out if we hope to have fulfilling lives and impact others.

Debbi Guthrie has unquestionably become a leader of women in her community, whose legacy originates from her company's history of giving back to the community. Her tireless, engaged action can be seen in an incredible array of community life, including: Trustee on the University of California, Riverside Foundation; President of the Riverside Community College/City Task Force; Chair-elect of the United Way of the Inland Valleys; Member of the Executive Committee, Monday Morning Group of Western Riverside County; Chair of the Roofing Apprenticeship Advisory Board; President of the Kiwanis Club of Riverside; and, Trustee on the March Field Museum Foundation.

As a leader among women of the Inland Empire, Debbi has received countless other awards and recognitions, including: 1993 Riverside YWCA's Woman of Achievement

ATHENA Award, 1994 Entrepreneur of the Year/Small Business, Ernst & Young, Inc. Magazine and Merrill Lynch; 1997 United States Small Business Administration District Small Business Person of the Year; 1998 Fellow, University of California, Riverside A. Gary Anderson Graduate School of Management; 1999–2000 Volunteer of the Year, Greater Riverside Chamber of Commerce; 2000 Management Leader of the Year, University of California Riverside A. Gary Anderson graduate School of Management; and, 2001 President's Award, Greater Riverside Chamber of Commerce.

Volunteers are critical to fostering a spirit of understanding, good citizenship and good government in the United States and worldwide. Since 1910, the Boy Scouts of America has instilled young men with the drive to "help other people at all times," and to keep themselves "physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight." Debbi Guthrie exemplifies these attributes and offers herself as a role model to young men and women, thereby assuring that an active interest in the civic, culture, social and moral welfare of our communities is passed on from generation to generation.

Debbi Guthrie has gone above and beyond the Boy Scout protocol. I ask of my colleagues in Congress to please join me in honoring Debbi Guthrie for her courage, innovation, and commitment to the youth of tomorrow as she is recognized on October 20th.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2001

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall no. 385, I was unable to cast my vote due to a previous commitment in my district.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE TECH TALENT ACT, H.R. 3130

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2001

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that America has long recognized that its long-term strength and security, and its ability to recover and sustain high levels of economic growth, depends on maintaining its edge in scientific achievement and technological innovation. Biomedical advances have permitted us to live longer, healthier, and more productively. Advances in agricultural technology have permitted us to be able to feed more and healthier people at a cheaper cost, more efficiently. The information revolution can be seen today in the advanced instruments schools are using to instruct our children and in the vast information resources that are opened up as a result of the linkages created by a networked global society. Our children

today can grow up to know, see, and read more, be more diverse, and have more options in their lives for learning and growing. Other emerging technologies—such as nanotechnology—have untold potential to make our lives more exciting, secure, prosperous, and challenging.

Many countries also recognize this and they, therefore, focus their industrial, economic, and security policies on the nurturing and diffusion of technological advancement through all levels of society in a deliberate fashion. Countries that follow this path of nurturing innovation focus a lot of their efforts into recruiting and training the very best engineers and scientists, ensuring that a pipeline which pumps talented and imaginative minds and skills is connected to the needs of the country's socio-economic and security enterprise.

Yet here in this country, this pipeline is broken, threatening the competitive edge we enjoy in the business of technological innovation. Fewer and fewer Americans are getting degrees in scientific and technical fields—even as the demand grows. For example, the number of bachelors degrees awarded in math, computer science, and electrical engineering has fallen 35 percent and 39 percent respectively from their peaks in 1987, at a time when total BA degrees have increased. The number of graduate degrees in those fields has either fallen noticeable or stayed flat. And only about half of all engineering doctoral degrees granted in the U.S. are earned by Americans.

The nation has dealt with this crisis in the recent past by expanding the H1B Visa program to let more foreign residents with science and engineering degrees enter the country. But the H1B program was never intended to be more than an interim solution. The long-term solution has to be ensuring that more Americans get into these fields.

Therefore, today, along with House Science Committee Chairman SHERWOOD BOEHLERT, and Representatives MELISSA HART, MARK UDALL, and MIKE HONDA, I have introduced the Tech Talent Act, H.R. 3130, aimed at increasing the number of scientists, engineers, and technologists in the United States. Senators JOSEPH LIEBERMAN (D-CT), CHRISTOPHER BOND (R-MO), BARBARA MIKULSKI (D-MD), BILL FRIST (R-TN), and PETE DOMENICI (R-NM) introduced a companion bill in the Senate.

This legislation addresses the tech worker shortage by establishing a competitive grant program at the National Science Foundation that rewards universities and community colleges that pledge to increase the number of U.S. citizens or permanent residents obtaining degrees in science, math, engineering and technology (SMET) fields. The pilot program, which will award three-year grants, is authorized at \$25 million in the next fiscal year, with funding expected to increase if the initial results are encouraging.

It always pays to be mindful of the fact—especially in the wake of the September 11 events—that there is a strong and tight linkage between our national security and the level of science and technology proficiency in America. Our strength and leadership in the world is based on the might of our defense, strength of our economy, and the quality of our education system. Without any one of these three

components the global preeminence of the nation suffers.

In the House Science Committee room there is an inscription: Where there is no vision, the people perish. To remain a strong nation, we must ensure that the single most important element that keeps us dynamic, innovative, prosperous, and secure—and therefore mighty—is there for us: our students, teachers, researchers, engineers, scientists, and technologists. In short, we need more people with vision. This bill will keep them coming.

I am honored to be a sponsor of this important legislation in the United States House of Representatives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2001

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 384, I was unable to cast my vote due to a previous commitment in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay".

WOMEN IN AFGHANISTAN

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2001

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the women in Afghanistan. Today in Afghanistan, a woman's basic right to vote, to pursue an education, and to join the job force, is threatened. The Taliban's insistence on secluding women from public life is a political maneuver disguised as "Islamic" law. Before seizing power, the Taliban manipulated and used the rights of women as tools to gain control of the country. To secure financial and political support, the Taliban emulated authoritarian methods typical of many Middle Eastern countries. The Taliban's stand on the seclusion of women is not derived from Islam, but, rather, from a cultural bias found in suppressive movements throughout the region.

Three and a half million Afghan refugees are fighting to survive in bordering countries, and the number has been increasing every day since the U.S. vowed retaliation for the September 11 attacks. Afghan women who fled the ruling Taliban's oppressive regime comprise more than 70 percent of those in refugee camps; many are already starving.

Before 1996, women were 70 percent of the school teachers, 40 percent of the doctors, 50 percent of government workers and 50 percent of the college students in Afghanistan. They were scientists, professors, members of parliament and university professors. Since then, the women and girls of Afghanistan have suffered horribly under the Taliban's rule, forbidden to work or attend school, prohibited from going outside without a close male relative and cut off from health care. Violations of these and other strict rules have resulted in beatings, torture and public executions.